

REMARKS

Claims pending in the instant application are numbered 1-30. Claims 1-30 presently stand rejected. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-10, 12-15, 17-20, 22-28 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Schell et al., U.S. Patent Number 6,314,520.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element of the claim is found in a reference (M.P.E.P. § 2131 citing *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628 (Fed. Cir. 1987)). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim (M.P.E.P. § 2131 citing *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226,1236 (Fed. Cir. 1989)).

Claim 1 expressly recites:

“a first control register to be loadable after the circuit is reset;
a first plurality of control registers to be loadable during an initialization process after the circuit is reset and to be unloadable until the circuit is reset again; and
a first switch unit coupled to the first control register and the first plurality of control registers, wherein the first switch unit to output data stored by one control register of the first plurality of control registers as a function of the data loaded in the first control register.”

On page 7 of the instant Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the data is output to the comparator as part of the group of related actions including loading data in the first control register which both contribute to the larger action of the comparator. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

The larger action of the comparator circuit 107 is to determine if the address of the received packet stored in buffer circuit 94 (and circuit 96) may be forwarded onto the data bus 62. The addresses stored in register 90 and 92 are used to determine if the address in receive buffer 94 is between the two trusted values in registers 90 and 92 (col. 4, line 59 to col. 5, line 25.) The comparator circuit 107 outputs a control signal, but does not output data from a register (col. 5, lines 17-30.) Even if one was to argue that the control signal outputted by comparator circuit 107 causes the output of data, such data is not output from a protected register. The control signal of comparator circuit 107 causes buffer circuit 94 to output the packet received from a network. Buffer circuit 94 is not a protected register.

Thus, the larger action of the comparator circuit 107 is not to forward an address from a protected register. Therefore, Schell does not disclose "the first switch unit to output data stored by one control register of the first plurality of control registers based on the data loaded in the first control register" as expressly claimed by the Applicants.

In sum, Schell fails to disclose, teach, or fairly suggest at least one of the expressly recited limitations of the Applicants' invention as presently claimed. Accordingly, the present invention would not be anticipated by Schell. Independent claims 10, 17, 22, 25 and 28 distinguish for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Claims 2-9, 11-16, 18-21, 23-24, 26-27 and 29-30 are dependent claims and distinguish for at least the same reasons as their

independent base claims in addition to adding further limitations of their own. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the instant § 102 rejections be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 2, 11 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schell in view of Circello et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2003/0061461. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schell in view of Rapp U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2001/0014036.

Claims 2, 8, 11 and 29 are dependent claims and distinguish for at least the same reasons as their independent base claims, as described above, in addition to adding further limitations of their own. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the instant § 103 rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to issue a Notice of Allowance in this case.

Charge Deposit Account

Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fee(s) that may be due in this matter, and please credit the same deposit account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

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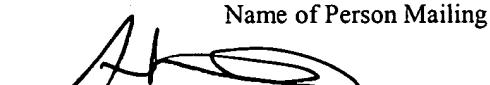
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